agricultural and horticultural commodities. The loss, if any under the MIS is to be shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and the State Government concerned.

(c) and (d) To help the farmers, the CCI has been purchasing kapas of FAQ and below FAQ grade up to three stages during 2004-05, CCI had carried out massive MSP operations in Andhra Pradesh through a network of 71 procurement centres and had procured a record quantity of 64.24 lakh quintals of kapas. These purchases are record purchases by CCI in Andhra Pradesh and highest ever amongst all the cotton growing States. During the current cotton season i.e. 2005-06, the CCI has purchased 13.86 lakh quintals of kapas upto 21.02.2006 in Andhra Pradesh.

(e) to (g) All purchases of kapas by CCI are made in the presence of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) officials from the notified market yards only.

Further, the State Government has this year, permitted the CCI to make direct purchases from cotton farmers without involvement of commission agents and accordingly all purchases are being made directly from the cotton farmers as per certification by APMC officials. No instances/complaints in this regard were brought to the notice of the Central or State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(h) The CCI endeavors to make purchases of all quantities offered to it by cotton farmers under MSP operations throughout the seasons. This helps the cotton farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce and avoid the possibilities of distress sale by them.

Sugarcane production

1202. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in production of sugarcane in the country over the years;

(b) the production of sugarcane at the end of the season 2005-06 *vis-a-vis* that for the previous two years;

(c) the reasons for low production and the areas where that has been prominent; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix a target for higher production of sugarcane in the country, if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be achieved for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The production of sugarcane reached an all time record level of 299.32 million tonnes in 1999-2000 but declined in the subsequent years. As per the 2nd advance estimates for 2005-06, the production of sugarcane is estimated at 266.88 million tonnes.

(b) The estimated production of sugarcane during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is shown in the table below:

(in million tonnes)

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Production	237.31	232.32	266.88

(c) The Production loss during the last two years was mainly due to droughts in various parts of the country and attack of woolly aphid insects particularly in Maharashtra and part of Karnataka along with some damage caused by floods.

(d) The targets of production for various crops including sugarcane are set at the beginning of the agricultural year (July to June). The targets for production of various crops for 2006-07 have not been fixed so far. However, in order to boost production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, a sugarcane scheme named the Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under the scheme of Macro Management Mode of Agriculture is implemented in major sugarcane growing states of the country. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implement, enhancing seed production and pest measures. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to State Governments for. Field Demonstration, Farmers Training, State level training, Implements (a) bullock drawn, (b) tractor drawn, Heat treatment plant, Seed multiplication, Drip Irrigation infrastructure, and Contingency.